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Note to: General Starbird

April 11, 1960

Through: Col. Hood, ^{504 1122} Capt. Houston

From : Lt. Col. S. W. Josephson

Subject: EPG CARETAKER STATUS

Jim Reeves informed me today that he will bring in to DMA the manpower/cost figures for EPG caretaker status on Tuesday, April 19. I explained to him that DoD has not yet decided on whether they will take over EPG, but if they don't decide within the next few days, we will want to go to caretaker status as soon as practicable (rather than in FY '62 as ALOO had in mind.)

Reeves is quite concerned about two problem areas.

(1) Ability to support TAC-SAC-AMC (refueling, billeting, messing, as called upon) under caretaker status strength. The POL farm on Parry would be deactivated along with power and salt water fire fighting lines, etc. In turn, this would mean storing the Diesel and Mogas on Fred, thus displacing some of the required storage space for Avgas and jet fuel. I suggested that he price the cost of any permanent extra manpower that would be clearly and solely attributable to meeting these TAC-SAC-AMC requirements so that we can get DoD to pay for them, or drop them.

(2) The PMR construction on Japtan which was to be completed this July is dragging out. Authorizations from PMR are slow in coming through. This means that some construction skills may be idle out there, waiting for PMR authorizations to proceed. Captain Houston and I told Reeves that if costs of that kind arise, PMR should be required to pay for them even if it means renegotiating the PMR contract. He will discuss this further when he comes in next week.

Assuming that DoD does not decide in the next ten days to take over EPG, I believe that before AEC can place EPG in a caretaker status (and dispose of the equipment and supply stockpiled out there) we need an officially stated concurrence from SecDef that the 12-month capability can be dropped. Please see exchange of correspondence last fall between Chairman, AEC, and SecDef at Tab A which officially established the 12-month readiness criterion.

Therefore, request approval to coordinate with DASA and General Loper the proposed letter at Tab from Chairman McCone to SecDef, which makes reference

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to the conclusions of our March 31, 1960 joint study on EPG and asks SecDef concurrence in dropping the 12-month readiness requirement. In this connection, Adm. Parker sent our Joint Study to the Chairman, JCS recommending JCS approval in memorandum dated April 7, copy at Tab C.

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If you approve Reeves' proposals on April 19, and as soon as SecDef concurs in dropping the 12-month requirement, Test Branch will prepare appropriate instructions to ALOO, a change-in-status letter to JCAE, and an information paper for the Commission.

Tab A: Exchange of correspondence between
Chairman and Sec Def

Tab B: Proposed ltr to SecDef fm Chairman

Tab C: Memo, Adm Parker to JCS

SO: Addressee and then DMA Files

CC: Budget

CC: Test Reader

CC: Test Pending

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